

province in which the accident took place. He can elect under which Act his case shall come. If it is the Provident Fund Act, the board would take up his case and deal with it.

Mr. MICHAUD: Supposing the employee, in case of an accident, elects to have his case come under the Compensation Act, would he still have to pay his dues to the Provident Fund? Has he the power to choose between them?

Mr. REID: Yes, he has that choice.

Mr. MICHAUD: But he would have to pay his Provident Fund dues just the same.

Mr. REID: The purpose of this legislation is to provide for employees who have to retire through being permanently incapacitated. The Provident Fund makes provision for those who are only temporarily disabled.

Mr. FIELDING: Is there any appeal from the decision of the Provident Fund managers with regard to the compensation allowed? I am reminded of the case of an old official of the railway who has received some allowance from the Provident Fund, but who thinks he has been very unjustly treated. Is there an appeal to the Government from the Provident Fund's decision?

Mr. REID: There is an appeal to the minister, and his decision is final.

Mr. FIELDING: The deputy minister has had this particular case under consideration and I take for granted that probably there may be good reasons for not giving this man larger compensation. At all events, I will mention his name and perhaps the minister will look into the matter. I am not saying for a moment that he has any grievance, but he thinks he has. His name is Mr. George Laird, resident in the neighbourhood of Truro. He was severely injured in the station yard at Truro. Perhaps the deputy minister to whom I gave the facts of the case a short time ago has already given the case all possible consideration. All I care to do now is to mention the matter to the minister, so that if there has been any omission to do justice to this man, his case may be looked into.

Resolution reported, read the first and second time, and concurred in.

Hon. Mr. Reid thereupon moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 30, to provide compensation where employees of His Majesty are killed or suffer injuries while performing their duties.

[Mr. J. D. Reid.]

Motion agreed to, and Bill read the first time.

#### RECLAMATION OF DOMINION LANDS BY DRAINAGE.

The House again in Committee on Bill No. 9, to authorize the reclamation of Dominion Lands by drainage—Hon. Arthur Meighen—Mr. Boivin in the Chair:

On section 2—power to reclaim land by drainage works:

Mr. ROBB: This work is apparently to be done under Reclamation Acts passed by the provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta. I notice that section 6 provides for the appointment of a Director of Reclamation Service. It seems to me the minister is providing the most expensive way of doing this work. If the work is to be done under the Provincial Acts, would it not be more economical to use the provincial officials? Is not this appointment simply to provide a good fat job for some one to roam around the country and make reports to the minister which will probably be shelved?

Mr. MEIGHEN: I am rather surprised the hon. gentleman should suspect anything of that sort. A Director of Reclamation Service has already been appointed; he has held office in the department for a great number of years, being appointed, I think, some fifteen years ago. The work is not to be done by the provinces at all. As I explained to the House on the second reading, this Bill is to take care of the work that the provinces do not do. Certain works in the way of drainage are done by the local authorities, following the arrangement that was arrived at between the representatives of the provinces and the Dominion. The second two classes of drainage projects are undertaken by drainage districts, or by the provinces themselves, and the actual responsibility for the drainage work is theirs. We are providing here for taking care of the fourth class. Where the Dominion owns a great tract of land, we do the work; we undertake the engineering, and actually construct and operate the drainage works. In doing so, however, we operate under the laws of the provinces passed for the purpose, in just the same way as would a company that undertook to construct these works. We come in as the Dominion Government. We actually do the work, but in doing so we follow the regulations and laws passed by the provinces.